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BERLIN: The Soviets marked the first anniversary of the four-power talks on Berlin by tabling a counterproposal to the Western draft agreement of 5 February.

The Soviet draft, presented at the ambassadorial session on 26 March, contains no dramatic departures from the position that Soviet negotiators have already put forward. In regard to civilian access, freedom of inner city movement, and the federal German right to represent West Berlin abroad--the points that head the Allied shopping list--the Soviet draft falls considerably short of Western desires. The language of the proposed provisions on access and inner city movement indicates that the Soviets still wish to use these to reduce the three powers' rights and perquisites by delegating effective political responsibilities to the respective German parties.

The Soviet draft would permit Bonn to include West Berlin in "nonmilitary and nonpolitical" treaties and to exercise consular responsibilities in the West, but in the past, the Soviets and their Warsaw Pact allies have refused to concede the point. The Soviet draft, however, continues to reserve all powers of political representation to the three powers.

The Soviet paper does not indicate any significant reduction in Moscow's own shopping list. It would prohibit the exercise of any official function by federal officers or constitutional organs and all activity by national political parties. It also provides for a significant expansion of the Soviet presence in West Berlin, including the establishment of a Soviet consulate-general, additional trade offices and the right of residence for Soviet citizens employed in them, and the prohibition of any legal restrictions against Soviet activities other than those in general application. The latter points would negate the tight controls that the three powers now exercise over Soviet activities in

the Western sectors, and would be a step toward putting the Soviets on an equal footing with the Allies in the western sectors of the city.

Meanwhile, no progress was made in the talks on 27 March between West Berlin Senat and GDR officials on the issuing of Easter passes to West Berliners. West Berlin hopes for an Easter agreement were squelched when the East German negotiator rejected an arrangement limited to the Easter holiday and again proposed conclusion of a general agreement. Senat Director Mueller reiterated that he is authorized only to discuss Easter visits. The meeting broke off after four hours without setting a date for further talks.

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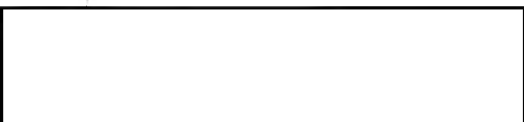
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